

Concord Energy and Environment Advisory Committee  
Monthly Meeting April 27, 2022  
6:00 PM  
City Council Chambers

Attendees: Rob Werner (Chair), Councilor Stacey Brown, Councilor Byron Champlin, Dot Currier, Jerry Eaton, Jennifer Galbraith, Charles Willing, Sam Durfee (Staff)

Absent: Nick Babladelis, Carl Cooley, Jeff Evans, Jessica Forrest, Henry Herndon, Jonathan Weinberg

I. Welcome and Introductions

6:10 pm - Rob Werner opened the meeting

Rob asks for comments on minutes. Chuck Willing noted that he should be recorded as absent from the previous meeting on March 22, 2022. Councilor Champlin noted that three boldface question marks appeared on page two of the draft notes. The missing acronym, ICLEA-USA was inserted. Councilor Champlin made a motion, seconded by Chuck Willing, to accept the minutes of the March 22, 2022 meeting, as amended. *Approved unanimously.*

II. The City of Concord has been awarded the Municipal Champion Award during New Hampshire Energy Week. Rob, Sam, Nick Jeff and Henry attended the awards ceremony.

III. Unitil Energy. Rob will meet with Gary Miller on Friday to discuss concerns Unitil might have with the net metering energy contract between Briar Hydro and the City, currently awaiting approval before the FERC. FERC approval had been thought to be routine and more timely. Rob will also inquire as to Unitil's plans, if any, to invest in solar projects, possibly at the City's former landfill or wastewater treatment plants.

IV. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations – Rob will meet with Matt Walsh, Deputy City Manager about development of EV charging stations at key locations in the City. Federal Infrastructure Funds are seen as a more attractive funding source than Volkswagen settlement funds as the former favors rapid charging stations while Volkswagen funds appear to be used for standard charging stations.

V. Sustainability Position – Tom Aspell met with Jessica, Nick, Sam and Rob concerning proposing this new position in the City's operating budget for FY 2023. New positions are in the "back budget" i.e., items considered after dealing with existing budget areas. The City Manager appeared to be supportive about this initiative, took suggestions from committee members about the job description, and asked committee members to inquire about other similar positions in N.H. municipalities, i.e. job descriptions, applicants' qualifications and compensation levels.

VI. Community Power – Rob suggested that lingering questions about the City joining the Community Power Coalition should await the period after the City Budget has been presented to the City Council.

VII. Summer Sustainability Fellow – Funding has been set up with the City. Our high school volunteers, Grace, Jenita and Evan have been inputting data from our previous intern's carbon footprint/inventory work into the ICLEA model. Thanks to their efforts, our Summer Fellow should be able to hit the ground running once her semester ends.

VIII. Weatherization Concord – Matt Manigiela from Liberty Utilities indicated that the NH PUC should issue an order approving funding levels and spending as early as May 1. Fifty Concord residents are currently on the waiting list and have received an audit. They were wait listed when the utilities' efficiency programs were suspended. Thirty of the customers could come off the waiting list as soon as PUC approval has been received.

IX. Concord School District – A meeting will be held on May 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss Federal Infrastructure funds for electric school busses. The plans for the new net zero energy junior high should also include extending a water line to the Birch Street Community Gardens instead of the Committee developing a solar powered well pump at this site.

X. City Council News – Councilor Brown announced that New Hampshire Technical Institute will hold an Agricultural Tour at its Sycamore Community Gardens on May 5 at 9 AM.

Upon Motion to Adjourn made by Councilor Champlin, seconded by Councilor Brown it was *unanimously voted* to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 PM.